

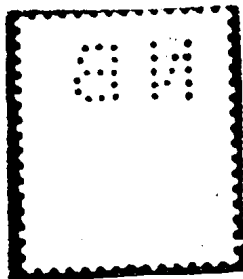
PERFIN DISCLOSES FAKE by Tony Llewellyn-Edwards.

In the Auction No.7 (1988), Lot 117 attracted much interest from bidders. It was described as a KE VII 6d GOVT/PAPCELS official with the perfin NB/I of the National Bank of India in London. G.B. Officials have no face value, being used simply as an internal accountancy aid within Government. They have no redemption value at the post office and in fact at the time they were in use it was a criminal offence to even possess mint copies. Why then was this item perfined and how did it get into the hands of the Bank of India?

This item has now passed through my hands and its very existence as an "impossible" item caused me to look at it very carefully. The answer was soon apparent - the stamp was a genuine Bank of India perfin but the official overprint was a fake. The faker was obviously not a perfin collector and when he obtained the perfined item (probably cheaply) he did not realise that he was faking an item, which could not exist. Below are illustrations of both the faked item and a genuine example. The fake seems to have been carefully done free hand with a pen and marking ink. Inspection will show that it is a fair copy if not scrutinised too closely but when compared with the genuine article, especially through a glass, the fake becomes obvious as shown below.



Perfined Fake



Genuine

